

Bank robbers target customers withdrawing large amounts of cash



La Porte police say they've responded to three car break-ins so far this year

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LA PORTE, Texas -

Police say crooks are monitoring financial institutions and looking for customers taking out large amounts of cash.

Police are warning that you might want to be extra cautious when leaving any financial institution, especially if you're withdrawing lots of cash.

La Porte police say there's a growing crime trend in the region involving thieves following customers and taking their money.

"Although this isn't a new crime when people are making significant withdraws at banks, it's actually becoming a trend regionally in this entire area, such as Bellaire, Pasadena, League City, Baytown," said Sgt. John Krueger of La Porte Police Department

Krueger says the thieves are watching customers pull into the financial institution and seeing if they have an envelope or bag in their hand. Then the crooks follow them to their next destination and when the victim leaves their car, the thieves break in and steal the money.

"There are preventative measures you can take. There's electronic transfers that can be made where you don't ever have to leave your house or leave the office. You can have checks made out directly to the recipient," said Krueger.

If you notice someone following behind, call 911 immediately.

La Porte police say they've responded to three car break-ins so far this year where burglars followed people from financial institutions in other areas.